

In the Claims

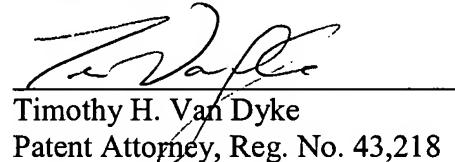
Please delete claims 1-8 and 21-31, without prejudice.

Remarks

Upon entry of this Amendment claims 9-20 will be pending. Claims 1-8 and 21-31 have been cancelled to pursue claims not elected in the co-pending, parent application no. 09/597,360. These amendments do not narrow the scope of the invention.

Reconsideration and further examination is respectfully requested. Applicants assert that all pending claims are in consideration for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned if clarification is needed on any aspect of this Preliminary Amendment, or if the Examiner believes a telephonic interview would expedite the prosecution of the subject application to completion.

Respectfully submitted,



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